

## Afro-Arab panel revives cooperation

DAMASCUS (R) — An Arab-African sub-committee ended talks Wednesday with an agreement to revive cooperation between the two blocks after a two-year lull, officials said. They said the sub-committee, headed by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara, decided to go ahead with a planned meeting of the full 24-member joint cooperation committee. Representatives from Syria, Sudan, the Congo and Zambia, and the general secretaries of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the Arab League took part in the two-day meeting. The full committee, grouping 12 ministers from each side, held its eighth meeting in Damascus in 1986. But a dispute on the status of the Western Sahara blocked its ninth meeting scheduled for Burkina Faso in 1987. The sub-committee, formed to find a compromise to let the organisation continue its work, "The main objective is to revive joint cooperation. The Saharawi issue did not have anything to do with Arab-African ties so it should not affect the process of cooperation," an Arab diplomat told Reuters.

Jeffrey L. Sacks

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية العربية، الاردنية، الراي.

## Saudi locust problem under control

Riyadh (R) — Swarms of desert locusts large enough to block out the sun have invaded northern Saudi Arabia. Officials from the locust research centre said Wednesday the infestation was under control but more of the pests were expected. "Two swarms in Tabuk have been completely controlled," one official said. "There are five swarms in the Al Jouf area but they are under control as well. Some of the swarms are more than two kilometres long. They look like giant clouds as they block out the sun." Two days ago Saudi authorities tackled a swarm stretching over nine square kilometres in the Al Jouf region. Jordan sent two insecticide-spraying vehicles towards the Saudi border as a precaution Wednesday, Agriculture Minister Marwan Al Hmouz said. No locusts had so far penetrated Jordan, partly because prevailing winds had kept them away. The voracious insects are entering Saudi Arabia from Africa because of prevailing westerly winds, the locust research centre official said. Huge concentrations have also been sighted this year in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has reported extensive damage across North Africa from what it says is the worst locust plague in 30 years.

Volume 13 Number 3773

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY MAY 5-6, 1988, RAMADAN 19-20, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

### Royal advisor named

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday appointing Budia Forces and Border Guards Commander Colonel Sharif Fawwaz Zaben Abdullah as an advisor on tribal affairs to His Majesty King Hussein.

### Crown Prince attends army unit iftar

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday attended an iftar banquet hosted by a unit of the Jordanian Armed Forces in his honour. The banquet was attended by senior army officers who performed prayers together with the Prince.

### Islamic banks plan \$300m fund

ABU DHABI (R) — Islamic banks in the Gulf are planning a \$300 million fund for investment in Islamic states, a senior banking official said. A committee has been studying steps to set up the fund, proposed by Dubai Islamic Bank, the bank's chairman, Saeed Alhmid Lootah, told Reuters. "We have finalised a study that is only awaiting approval by the Gulf branch of the International Islamic Banks' Union," he said. Lootah heads the Gulf section of the union, which groups more than 50 banks in Islamic states. He said the fund's capital had been initially set at \$300 million but could be raised depending on subscriptions. There would be 1,000 shares worth \$300,000 and subscription would be limited to Islamic banks and monetary institutions in Islamic countries. Bankers expect the fund to be based in Kuwait or the United Arab Emirates, although no final decision has been taken.

### Yemens start steps towards unity

ADEN (R) — A South Yemeni leader returned home Wednesday after signing agreements in North Yemen aimed at uniting the two states. Ali Saleh Al Baidh, secretary-general of the ruling Socialist Party, told reporters both sides agreed to present a proposed unity constitution to their respective parliaments for study. He said the accords, which included agreement to cooperate in the oil industry, were "a great achievement which silenced warmongers and evil forces..." Baidh said steps would be taken to lift travel restrictions.

### Iran says 200 Marxists arrested

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian security forces arrested 200 members of the outlawed Marxist Fedayeen-e-Khalq group in the northeastern province of Khorasan, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Wednesday. The agency quoted a security official in the province bordering Afghanistan and the Soviet Union as saying documents and printing machines had been seized from the group, some of whose leaders had been trained in foreign country. The official said two bombs intended to explode in busy city areas were seized from "counter-revolutionaries" in the sweep. He said several foreign spies had also been captured, but did not disclose their nationalities. IRNA said. The official said agents had arrested Khaled Ahmadi, a member of the pro-Soviet Tudeh (Communist) Party, when he was crossing into Iran from Afghanistan.

### Pakistani minister to visit Moscow

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's acting foreign minister will travel to Moscow Monday for the first high-level meeting with Soviet officials since the Geneva accord on Afghanistan was signed, officials said Wednesday. A Foreign Office spokesman said Minister Zain Noorani would meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Soviet-Pakistan relations. However, their talks are expected to centre on how to implement the agreement signed April 14 that provides for a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan beginning in mid-May.

# Strike paralyses occupied lands

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were totally paralysed Wednesday as Palestinians observed a massive general strike as part of the 21-week-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

The strike, the latest of dozens of such protests in the five months of Palestinian uprising, virtually shut down the occupied territories and occupied Jerusalem. It came a day after Israeli soldiers killed three Palestinian protesters.

Palestinians shuttered their stores and paralysed public transportation in the occupied territories in response to a fiercer distributed last week by the underground leadership of the uprising. The pamphlet called for Wednesday to be a "complete strike" and a "day of national construction."

The strike was expanded from

### 2 Palestinians shot dead

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli troops shot and killed two Palestinians and wounded 13 Wednesday as a general strike virtually paralysed the occupied territories. The worst clash was reported in the Gaza Strip's Jabalya refugee camp where Israeli soldiers opened fire on a crowd of protesters, killing two and wounding six, Arab reports and hospital officials said. Hospital officials identified the fatalities as Jamal Mahmoud Al Madbouzi, 20, and Rizk Husein Abbah, 17.

a Tuesday shutdown that affected only the Gaza Strip. Few Palestinians went out to their jobs in Israel.

In Ramallah, the only commercial activity seen by an Arab reporter was the selling of newspapers.

Protest marches and stone-throwing incidents were reported throughout the occupied territories and several Palestinians were wounded in clashes with soldiers.

At Nablus even bakeries and street vendors which normally remain open during strikes were reported closed Wednesday. The army clamped a curfew on the adjacent Balata refugee camp where one of the Palestinian deaths was reported Tuesday.

The latest deaths raise to 180 the number of Palestinians killed since the uprising began in December.

In Arab Jerusalem, police and border patrol troops blocked the main commercial street of Salaheddin as authorities kept up the pressure on shopkeepers to

### King addresses dignitaries and notables in Mafraq Governorate

## 'Jordan seeks just peace but will not compromise over any inch of Arab land'

MAFRAQ (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday that while Jordan would continue to exert all-out efforts for just and honourable peace in the Middle East it would not compromise or bargain over any inch of Arab land.

In remarks made at an iftar banquet he hosted for dignitaries, notables and officials from Mafraq Governorate, King said that Jordan, side by side with its search for peace, would also continue to build its armed forces to defend itself and shield the rest of

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His Majesty King Hussein receives dignitaries and notables from Mafraq Governorate at an iftar he hosted Wednesday (Petra photo)

### French hostages freed

BEIRUT (AP) — Three French hostages held in Lebanon by extremists since 1985 were freed Wednesday in west Beirut, local reports said. Diplomats Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine, and journalist Jean Paul Kauffmann were set free near the Summerland hotel in the seaside Jounieh neighbourhood at 7:20 p.m. (1720 GMT), local radio stations said.

In Paris, Premier Jacques Chirac confirmed that the last French hostages held in Lebanon have been freed.

The Voice of the Nation radio quoted a reporter at the Summerland hotel as saying the three captives were brought to the hotel in a black Mercedes that carried no plate.

Syrian soldiers took delivery of the three men. The regulars whisked the men into another Mercedes car, a white one, that sped away in the direction of the Syrian army's Beirut headquarters in the nearby Ramlet Al Baida, the reporter was quoted as saying.

The three were the last Frenchmen held in Lebanon. Kidnappers said they had killed a fourth, 38-year-old Arabist researcher Michel Semer, but his body has not been found.

Others drove trucks mounted with anti-aircraft guns to the scene, some eight kilometres outside the "security zone."

The militiamen, looking weary but determined, said the combatants were only 20 metres apart at some points in Maidoun. Security and Hezbollah sources

said the Israeli and the SLA captured Maidoun, only five kilometres from the Syrian-held town of Mashghara, but fighting continued around the village.

Mashghara, gateway to the Bekaa Valley, came under heavy artillery attack with shells landing at the rate of 20 a minute, and residents fled the battle.

Syrian troops in Mashghara, estimated to number 600, said they were not involved in the battles and it was not clear whether the shells rocking the town hit any of their positions or checkpoints.

"This is a political decision whether we fight or not and so far we have not received orders," said one soldier. Most of the Syrian troops evacuated their checkpoints or were behind sandbagged positions.

The militiamen said they fired a SAM-7 missile at an Israeli helicopter but did not hit it. They said they destroyed three Israeli tanks.

Reuter correspondents in this village, between Maidoun and Mashghara, said at least 10 Israeli

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### Resistance, Israelis fight fierce battles in Lebanon

#### Jordan condemns Israeli incursion

AMMAN (Agencies) — Information Minister Hani Al Khasawneh said Wednesday Israel's incursion into South Lebanon was a reflection of the Zionist state's intransigence.

"Israel's incursion into South Lebanon is a result of their intransigence against the idea of an international Middle East peace conference," he told Reuters.



Hani Khasawneh

and complicate the situation" in the Middle East.

"Egypt condemns Israel's policy of repeated attacks on the territories of Arab countries and denounces the military aggression on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of sister state Lebanon," said the spokesman.

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### Iraqis bomb Iranian oil centres

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said its planes attacked an oil refinery and petrochemical plant Wednesday in the Iranian city of Shiraz and threatened more raids on economic targets.

Baghdad said Tuesday night Iranian gunners shelled the northern border town of Darbandikan and warned of retaliation if Iran continued to attack Iraqi residential areas. IRNA denied any shelling.

The high command communiqué said the plants were hit at 11:30 a.m. (0730 GMT) in the first such attacks since April 20, when Iraq declared a unilateral halt to the war of the cities.

"Our pilots saw huge columns of smoke billowing from the targets," the communiqué said. Iran claimed it shot down two jets attacking an industrial centre at Shiraz and captured one pilot. It said several civilians were killed in an earlier raid on the city.

Oil industry sources have reported that Iran's refining capacity has been cut by around one-third in recent weeks because of the bombing.

This has forced Iran to import unprecedented amounts of re-

fined products such as kerosene and jet fuel, said the sources, quoted by the AP.

IRNA said an industrial plant in the oil-producing Gachsaran region, 160 kilometres west of Shiraz, was also bombed in another Iraqi raid.

There was no mention of that raid in the Iraqi communiqué.

Both sides have claimed their border towns have come under artillery fire in recent days, but neither has resumed missile or air attacks on population centres.

### Rabin outlines Labour peace terms

LONDON (AP) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in an interview published Wednesday, called for an Arab-Israeli peace settlement entailing a jointly run Jordanian-Palestinian state in 60 per cent of the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

He said his Labour Party, which shares power with the right-wing Likud bloc in a coalition, insisted that "Jerusalem must be united under Israeli sovereignty and remain its capital."

The "joint Jordanian-Palestinian state" had to be "under one sovereignty, one government, one flag and one capital — Amman," Rabin told Jane's Defence Weekly.

He ruled out Israeli withdrawal to its pre-1967 borders, saying changes must be made "to be included under Israel's sovereignty."

The talks, the first held between the four parties involved in an expensive London hotel, said the four nations had agreed that a follow-up meeting would take place at an unnamed African venue in the near future.

The meetings took place in a constructive atmosphere and progress was made," the joint communiqué said.

The talks, the first held between the four parties involved in an expensive London hotel, was chaired by Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Chester Crocker who headed the U.S. delegation.

A joint Angolan-Cuban delegation, in which Risquet represented Cuba, was headed by Angolan Foreign Minister Afonso van-Dunem while the director of South Africa's department of foreign affairs, Neil van Heerden, led his country's delegation.

"The talks went well and there has been an advance," Cuba's senior negotiator politburo member Jorge Risquet told reporters.

Tehran Radio claimed Saudi security forces "savagely attacked" the Iranian consulate general in Jeddah and took diplomats "in an inhuman way to an unknown location."

"All Iranian consular and embassy staff in Jeddah and Riyadh left with their belongings in a quiet, secure atmosphere without anyone being harmed," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted an official as saying.

"The measures taken were routine and in accord with diplomatic norms followed in such cases," the official said.

"What radio Tehran said and what was carried by news agencies (Tuesday) is untrue and has no base," he added.

Iran sent an aircraft to pick up diplomats who were given until Tuesday to leave after Riyadh severed ties with Tehran and repeated accusations that Saudi security forces beat

them and taking documents from the Iranian embassy in Jeddah and consulate in Jeddah.

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted Iranian Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Hussein Tarani on arrival at Tehran airport as accusing Saudi security forces of "raiding Iran's embassy and consulate on Tuesday morning and beating and injuring their Iranian staff."

He claimed they took many important documents and forced them out of their homes.

There was little overt sign

Wednesday in Riyadh or Jeddah of the tension that set the two Gulf superpowers at loggerheads.

Eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters said the two-storey, high-walled Iranian embassy in a residential suburb of the Saudi capital appeared empty, with police keeping a low-key watch outside.

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## Fao: Beginning of the end for Iranian regime



Iraqi soldiers hoisting the Iraqi flag on an abandoned Iranian position



Jordanian journalists with victorious Iraqi soldiers under a portrait of President Saddam Hussein

THE first occupied Arab land to be liberated by military force during the 20th century, the Fao peninsula, is a vast area, extending over 300 square kilometres, full of nature's mishaps and natural obstacles, but to the Iraqis and Arabs it is part of the Arab homeland and it was liberated in a battle that lasted only 34 hours.

The Fao peninsula, known to the Iraqis as the Mameah district, is surrounded by water on three sides, with salt constituting the bulk of its soil. Mameah, derived from the Arabic word *mith* — salt. This has turned the earth into something similar to quick sand.

The only road into the area was originally built by the Iraqis. This is an open route that runs below sea level. The road could not be used by the Iraqis during their military offensive. The road was protected on both sides by wired

and mined areas placing further difficulties in front of Iraq's past attempts to liberate the Fao.

Since the Fao was occupied by Iraq in 1986, Iraq has been training certain factions of its army on a plan that would achieve liberation, they built another Fao somewhere in Iraq, where all the natural features of the area were copied and soldiers were trained over two years.

### Surprise

The crucial element was surprise, and the Iraqi army, backed by proper training, waited for the right moment to put together all the ingredients for victory. The moment came on the first day of the holy month of Ramadan, and the land that took the Iranians two months and thousands of killed to occupy was liberated only in 34 hours.

Three different corps of the Iraqi army invaded the area at 6:30 a.m. on the first day of Ramadan with the elite presidential guards taking the lead and executing the first two stages of the operation. The cadres of the Iraqi seventh division backed by an armoured division completed the operation.

When this reporter visited the area 11 days after it was liberated, almost all corpses and artillery shells had already been removed. But the aura of war was still in the air overwhelmed only by Iraqis jubilation in their victory.

The first thought that hits the impartial visitor, is the apparent vastness of the area. It extends endlessly as far as the human eye could see, and almost in every metre there is an obstacle of nature's making. One stands there and feels awed; the Arabs have finally achieved a victory, they have liberated an occupied Arab land with force.

Jubilant Iraqi soldiers, greeted the Jordanian press delegation with signs of victory and whispers of what the soldiers call their "little dream," suppressed now by the ongoing Iraq-Iran war; in their minds a duty that one day they will perform is the liberation of another occupied Arab land, Palestine.

The Iraqis left their "finger prints" all over the area. A Sunni mosque's minaret was hit when Iran occupied the area. During

Jordan Times Staff Reporter Nermene Murad, who visited the Fao peninsula after the Iraqis retook it from Iran last month, reports:



Photos by Khalil Mazraawi

the occupation the Iraqians turned the mosque into part reconnaissance centre and part kitchen. On the other hand, another mosque which was adopted as a Shi'ite mosque by the Iraqians, had pro-Khomeini and Islamic Jihad slogans all over the walls of the mosque.

A library at the Iranian military command centre, housed hundreds of books on Khomeini's Islamic revolution. Some books had in their folds letters by Iranian soldiers to their families.

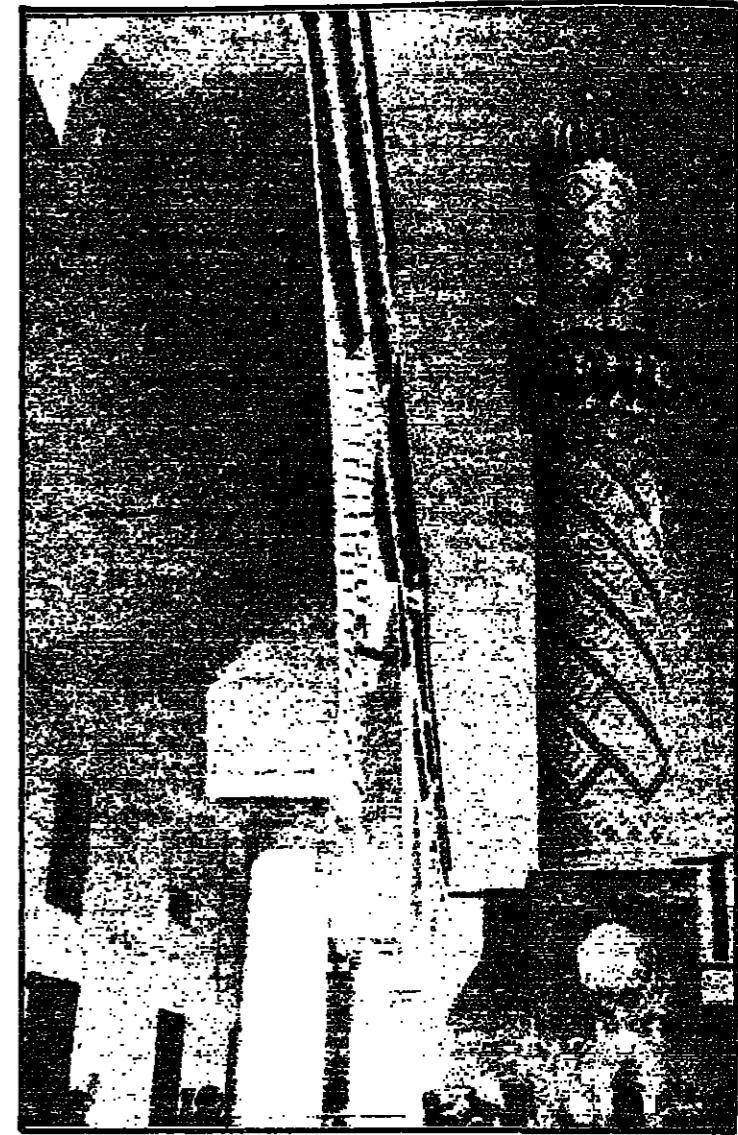
Visitors to the area, at this stage mostly journalists, were appalled by the huge loss of life. Although bodies had been removed before the arrival of the Jordanian press delegation, this reporter saw body parts littering the sides of the main road into the Fao area. Regardless of whether they were those of Iraqi or Iranian soldiers, journalists' happiness over the Iraqi victory was slightly marred by the horrors of the continuation of the eight-year-old war.

The Iraqi victory in Fao holds wider meaning for the whole Gulf area. Not only is it an Iraqi victory, it is a move that provided the whole Gulf area, especially Kuwait, with protection against the Iranian regime's aggressiveness. As one military official said, "what can I tell you about the Fao victory? It has protected Iraq and the Gulf."

Some analysts who have studied the development of the Gulf war over the past eight years, described the Fao liberation, as the "beginning of the end for the Iranian regime," they also predicted that the war will not continue beyond 1989, ending with an Iraqi victory.

### Shat Al Arab

Photo by Khalil Mazraawi



Fao mosque used by occupying Iranian troops

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# National News

## Minister meets envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Higher Education Minister Nasseruddine Al Assad Wednesday met with Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Saghir Husseini Syed to discuss Jordanian-Pakistani cooperation in higher education.

They also reviewed the conditions of Jordanian students in Pakistani universities in the light of the recent Pakistani government's increases of university fees.

The minister and the ambassador discussed the prospect of exempting Jordanian students from paying the extra fees if they were registered at Pakistani universities before the new regulations were issued.

Later the minister met with the Indonesian Ambassador here Sumario Sario Kosomo to discuss Jordanian-Indonesian cooperation in higher education.

The discussion covered the exchanges of visits by university students and the signing of a cultural agreement.



Higher Education Minister Nasseruddine Al Assad meets with Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Saghir Husseini Syed (above) and Indonesian Ambassador



to Jordan Sumario Sario Kosomo (below) in his office Wednesday (Petra photo)

## French centre, Yarmouk discuss cooperation

IRBID (Petra) — Cooperation between the French national research centre in Paris and Yarmouk University was discussed at a meeting here Wednesday by Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan and the French centre's research department director.

The French centre is specialised in archaeological excavations and is conducting excavations at the Abu Hamid site in cooperation with Yarmouk University.

The president and the French visitor discussed the prospect of publishing the findings of the excavation work and also setting up an exhibition in September to display Jordan's antiquities and newly discovered artifacts in cooperation with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities.

## Zarqa governorate to plant more trees

ZARQA (Petra) — The Agricultural Department in Zarqa has embarked on a process to remove and eliminate weeds in the forest regions at Aalouk, Bierien and Massarat, according to the Zarqa governorate, according to department officials.

They said that the department at the same time embarked on a programme of planting forest

trees along side the Zarqa River with the purpose of preventing soil erosion and beautification of the area.

Trees will be planted along 16 kilometres, stretching from Tawhini Al Udwani to the Al Shukhme River.

The total number of trees to be planted they said, will be nearly 26,000.

## Society for handicapped holds cultural programme

AMMAN (Petra) — A day-long activities by the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped, was held Wednesday at the society headquarters in Amman.

The activities comprised cultural and recreational programmes designed to encourage handicapped children to become creative and participate in useful work.

The activities which were sponsored and organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF)

offer handicapped children a good opportunity to embark on inventive and creative work of their own.

The NHF is sponsoring these activities within a special educational programme, which is being implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education.

and which entails training instructors in means of imparting education to handicapped children.

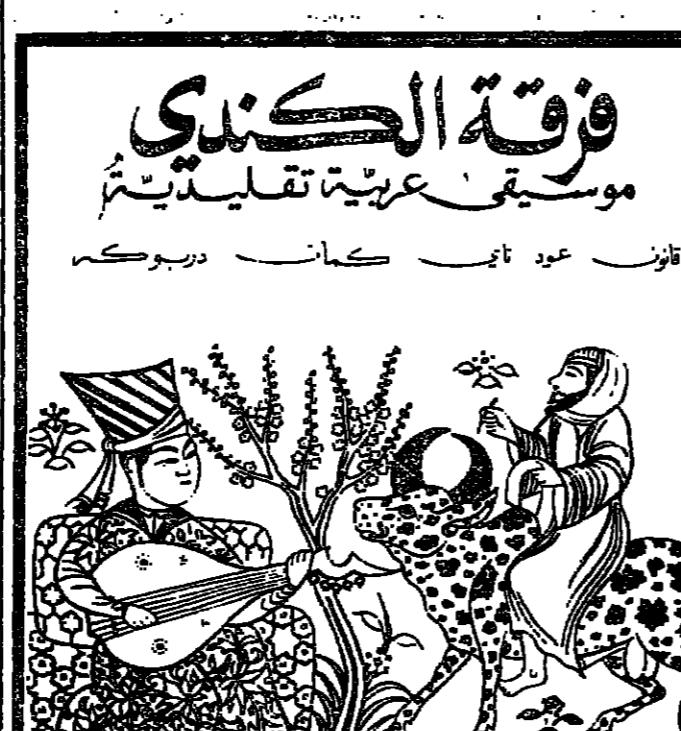
## Dajani, Zawaideh visit architectural exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — The question of building governors residents in Jordan's different governorates in a similar architectural style was discussed here Wednesday at a meeting attended by Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani and Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh.

Both ministers later visited an

architectural exhibition set up by the Ministry of Public Works displaying architectural projects that are entries in a competition which will decide the best and most suitable for governors' residents.

Thirteen engineering offices in Jordan have taken part in the competition.



## Paris based Al Kindi to perform in Amman

By Jean-Claude Elias  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The French Cultural Centre (CCF) presents the group Al Kindi in a concert of traditional classical Arabic music on Saturday May 7 at 8:30 p.m. at the Haya Arts Centre.

Based in Paris, France, and led by Julien Weiss who is also its founder, the ensemble includes Larbi Ouichini on the 'kaman', Mohammad Saada on the 'nay', Adel Shamsuddine on the 'darbuka' and Julien Weiss on the 'qanoun'.

The kaman is the oriental violin tuned in fourth instead of fifth, the nay is much similar to the flute, the darbuka is a single drum the name of which comes from the Arabic 'darb ul iqab', meaning 'the rhythm path' according to the eminent musicologist Ms. Yusra Armita, and the qanoun is an Arabic sitar comprising 78 horizontal strings. Mr. Weiss is French while his fellow musicians come from Tunisia and Egypt.

Though coming from different countries, Al Kindi musicians share a common love from the traditional forms of classical Arabic music found in Syria, Egypt and in the Arab-Andalusian roots.

They also share an impressive background of high musical education in both the Western and Oriental styles, in France and Egypt.

Julien Weiss has studied and worked with some of the most celebrated Arab masters, while Larbi Ouichini has a degree in harmony, counterpoint, and orchestration from the famous Schola Cantorum.

Al Kindi play genuine Arabic music. They have perfectly assimilated the essence and the spirit of the specific style they have adopted. They have even added the exactness and the precision of Western classical forms to the Arabic music without diminishing its flexibility, its subtlety or its charming power of improvisation.

Julien Weiss' soli on the qanoun are beautiful and typical examples of these possibilities.

The group knows how to make the best with the Arabic music strong points: rhythm and melody.

Listening to Al Kindi music, Mohammad Abdul Razek Abu Bakr, an Egyptian living in Jordan, said it reminded him of what the famous 'Arabian Music Orchestra' used to play in Cairo.

The orchestra is known for their instrumental rendering of the songs of Oum Kulthoum, the late Egyptian singer.

In times when some critics find the music of the Arab World too archaic and surpassed by Western music, the initiative of Julien Weiss sheds a new light on music appreciation. The performance of Al Kindi Saturday should equally attract lovers of both Western and Oriental styles.

Miami he added is close to Latin America, which has a large Arab and Jordanian population, and for this reason RJ is launching a new programme to encourage tourists from the two Americas to visit the archaeological places in the Kingdom.

## Jordan marks World Traffic Day

# Accidents increased by 2,077 cases in 1987 over 1986

AMMAN (J.T.) — Road accidents in Jordan last year increased by 2,077 over those that occurred in the previous year, causing 32 more deaths and 1,427 injuries over 1986 figures and considerable material damage, Interior Minister Rajai Dajani said Wednesday.

Addressing a special celebration at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman to mark "World Traffic Day," the minister said the occasion offers a good opportunity for all members of the public to reassess the situation and try to reduce accidents on the roads by all possible means.

"All concerned parties, including motorists, pedestrians and departments responsible for roads, should join forces to bring an end to the carnage on roads; and all responsible officials should work towards finding solutions to problems impeding progress in this respect," the minister said.

"The Interior Ministry in 1984 introduced a traffic law, which caters for all issues pertaining to traffic problems, and it continues to introduce amendments to the law to adapt it to new developments," the minister added.

He said the traffic department does all it can to organise traffic on roads and city streets, and continues to test cars and other vehicles to determine their fitness for the roads in order to ensure safety.

"People are the most responsible element for this safety, and are also responsible for road accidents," the minister stressed.

He said the 1987 road accident figures indicated that most accidents took place last year due to lack of proper attention on the part of the motorists, violations of traffic rules, speeding and wrong overtaking.

He said the whole society

should be involved in the process of preventing road accidents through public awareness, campaigns, teaching children in the use of roads and other available means.

"In fact, awareness in the field of road safety and traffic rules should be one of the subjects that must be introduced at schools and higher educational institutions," Dajani noted.

He said legal measures against violators are not enough to stop the accidents. Other means should be used to introduce a change in the conduct of motorists on the roads.

Last November, a three-day symposium on the prevention of road accidents was held in Amman under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Dajani who deputised for the Crown Prince then said that road accidents have become an increasingly dangerous phenomenon, threatening human lives and causing severe damage to economic and social development.

Other speakers at the ceremony held at the Royal Cultural Centre Wednesday included Public Security Department (PSD) Deputy Director Nasouh Muhieddin, Dr. Zuhair Malhas, president of the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents (JSOPRA), and PSD officers.

### Arab Traffic Day

The ceremony also marks the

beginning of an Arab Traffic Week and serves as a reminder to everyone of the duty to help reduce road accidents and minimise human and material losses, according to JSOPRA officials.

They said that 1987 witnessed material losses estimated at JD 62 million as a result of accidents on the Kingdom's roads.

These accidents last year caused the death of 395 people, and the injury of 8,957 others, according to these officials quoting PSD statistics.

According to these statistics also last year the PSD issued fines to 569,341 violators of traffic rules and many violators were referred to court for trial.

### Number of vehicles rises

Malhas was quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily as saying that at the start of the present decade there were 135,000 vehicles in the Kingdom, rising to the present day number of 250,000.

The huge number of cars congest roads which did not increase in length in the same proportion, he added.

Malhas said that motorists remain the main cause of all accidents, and for this reason, this year's celebrations are being held under the slogan: "Slow Down" and "Be Careful So as to Arrive Safely."

According to official PSD statistics, there were 14,373 accidents in the Kingdom in 1983, causing the death of 443 people; in 1984 these accidents rose to 15,917 with 493 dead; in 1985, 16,078 accidents with 524 dead; in 1986, 14,068 accidents with 355 dead and in 1987 there were 15,904 accidents causing the death of 395 people.

JSOPRA Secretary General Rashed Sharif said that statistics have shown that 65 per cent of the

accidents are caused by motorists and 35 per cent are blamed on the condition of roads and vehicles.

The World Traffic Day, Sharif said, "is an occasion for stock-taking and revision of these figures by everyone so that lessons can be taken for the future."

The society, he said, is now striving to reduce the number of accidents at least 10 per cent during 1988.

Jordan has been observing World Traffic Day on May 4 since 1975 in implementation of a U.N. resolution adopted in 1984.

PSD Deputy Director Major General Nasouh Muhieddin said in a statement to Al Ra'i daily that the occasion was a good chance for members of the public to review previous accident figures and take extra care to avoid similar occurrences.

He appealed to motorists to help reduce the number of accidents by taking extra care on the roads which, he said, are now more busy and congested than any time in the past.

The PSD, he said, is working with all its might to improve traffic services on roads in Jordan and is also active in its attempts to allow only those careful motorists and road-worthy vehicles to use the roads.

Towards the end of the ceremony at the Royal Cultural Centre, the Interior Minister distributed awards and cups to a number of ministries, departments, societies and trade unions which took active participation in measures and campaigns designed to reduce road accidents.

Among those honoured on the occasion also was a group of journalists and officials at Radio Jordan and Jordan Television who contributed to these campaigns.

## Khayyat, preachers discuss Islamic issues

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Wednesday chaired a meeting here for Imams and preachers of mosques in the Irbid governorate, during which issues related to religious guidance and preaching were reviewed.

The minister reviewed a number of issues of concern to Muslims and called on preachers and religious guides to familiarise Muslims with these issues.

Sheikh Khayyat also discussed the ministry's Zakat (alms to the poor) Fund and its role in providing aid to needy families and to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

The Zakat Fund gives aid to the families of martyrs and to students whose financial resources have been cut off due to the ongoing Palestinian uprising.

Sheikh Khayyat also pointed out the Israeli measures against Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories.

The minister earlier Wednesday called at the Irbid governor's house where he met with Irbid Governor Akram Al Nassar and discussed with him issues related to the Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Department in the governorate.

Also on Wednesday Sheikh Khayyat discussed Jordanian-Indonesian cooperation in religious affairs with Indonesian Ambassador to Jordan Sumario Sario Kosomo.



FAYEZ RECEIVES ENVOY: Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez has received a cable of thanks from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in reply to the cable of congratulations which he earlier sent to the Iraqi leader on the occasion of Iraq's liberation of the Fao

peninsula from the Iranians. The cable is being delivered to Fayez Wednesday by Iraqi Ambassador in Amman Ghafel Jasem Hussein. In his cable President Hussein expressed his appreciation for Mr. Fayez's brotherly feelings towards Iraq (Petra photo)

## Awajan School to welcome students

AMMAN (USIA) — Maintenance workers are scrubbing the latest traces of construction dust from the Awajan School in preparation for its inspection by Ministry of Education and Ministry of Public Works officials.

The brand new 3-storey school in Zarqa is one of 15 schools of the same design that will open for the 88-89 school year.

The schools have been built under the watchful eye of Abdulla Ahmed who is both a parent of 5 school-age children and a senior engineer with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The compulsory level schools will serve children in Grades 1-9.

The government of Jordan has provided both land and some 25 per cent of the cost of constructing and equipping each school, while USAID provided about 75 per cent of these costs.

Ahmed has consulted with teachers and administrators in making improvements to the basic school design. As a result of these improvements, two of the classrooms in the Awajan School convert to a large meeting room when the folding partition between them is opened.

The stairs of Awajan are made of local marble, another one of Ahmed's innovations.

Marble is safer and more durable than the terrazzo which is used for the floors, because it does not chip when used in stairways.

Daylight from interior-wall windows fills the length of the wide, open corridors.

Awajan School will be complete with a science laboratory, library, cafeteria, and playground.



Abdullah Ahmad surveys science lab in Awajan School

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

Established 1973

جريدة الأردن اليوميةapolitique indépendante en arabe et en anglais par la Jordan Press Foundation.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## A proposal worth exploring

THE suggestion last week by Italian Socialist Party leader Bettino Craxi that the European Community (EC) could administer the West Bank and Gaza for a transitional period, until a negotiated Arab-Israeli settlement materialises, should spark an interesting debate about possible alternatives to the current status quo. Such a proposal cannot be accepted or rejected out of hand, in isolation from all other aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We should point out, however, that we are impressed by Mr. Craxi's call insofar as it demonstrates a willingness to address pressing issues in a caring and creative manner. Whether or not the EC is the most appropriate body to administer the Palestinian lands remains for the involved parties to decide. We like the manner in which Mr. Craxi has the courage and honesty to point out to the world that the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is intolerable, and that practical steps should be taken to alleviate the physical and mental hardships suffered by the Palestinians who live there.

The European Community has always sought to dwell in the political middle ground, where what is right and what is politically possible can be brought together in an effective policy. The EC has not always been as decisive as we would like it to be, on the grounds that it lacks the political clout needed to move the protagonists in the Middle East, or the superpowers further afield. But the Europeans are largely unfettered by the constraints of the superpowers, and they enjoy the benefit of credibility and good working relations with all sides — namely the Arab states, the PLO and Israel.

More importantly, the Europeans stand in stark contrast to the American government, in that they are more clear about the need to satisfy Palestinian national rights, along with assuring Israel's security, as the essential prerequisites of a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. An EC mandate to administer the occupied territories — perhaps on the legal strength of a formal mandate from the United Nations, based on the partition resolution of 1947, which remains the internationally recognised basis for Israel's creation — would perhaps create a climate of less Israeli frenzy and more concerted Arab diplomatic dynamism, while removing some of the very real and harsh oppression which the Palestinians suffer from on a daily basis. The Italian reputation for flair, and fairness, remains intact.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: No one is surprised

NO one in the Arab World was surprised by Israel's new act of aggression on South Lebanon, especially in view of the current situation in the Middle East. Israel, faced with an uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and being unable to end the revolt, has resorted to a new act of aggression to divert the Israeli people's attention to an external danger and to restore confidence in the Israeli troops who failed to end the uprising. The new Israeli aggression on Lebanon does not aim at taking revenge on the Palestinian and Lebanese population only, but also is designed to cause splits between the Lebanese and the Palestinians living in the south. Israeli troops who conducted wide scale search operations detaining hundreds of people in this new offensive is calling on the Lebanese to create local governments and to cooperate with the enemy against their own country and their own legitimate government in Beirut. It is clearly a plan aimed to further dismember Lebanon and its people and eventually serve the objectives of Israel. The new aggression, coming six years after the invasion of Lebanon is perhaps intended to restore self-confidence in the Israeli society which had been deeply split over the Israeli army's failure to achieve its goals in Lebanon, and to put down the revolt in the occupied territories. The new invasion should prompt all peace-loving nations and the United Nations to help our region to restore peace which can ensure an end to Israel's atrocities, and bring back security and stability to the Middle East area.

### Al Dustour: King's pride

AT the iftar banquet hosted by the King at the Al Hussein Youth City, the monarch reiterated his deep pride in the Jordanian family and in the country whose men, he said, are determined to sacrifice anything in defence of the nation. The King compared the Kingdom to a strong fortress constantly being protected by its men, and standing firm in the face of all conspiracies and enemy attempts for expansion and aggression. The King who reviewed with his audience the country's achievements over the past 35 years of his rule, gave his people cause to renew their self-confidence and their determination to achieve more successes. The King paid tribute to the people of the occupied territories who he said are confronting the Israeli enemy and thwarting Israeli plans through their course of struggle for freedom. The monarch also paid tribute to the Iraqi people who are defending Arab soil in the face of Persian aggression on the Arab Nation. The King's address to his people revived self-confidence and rekindled optimism and new aspirations and hopes for the future.

### Sawt Al Shaab: Nation not daunted by invaders

WHAT is going on in Iraq and Palestine is constantly on the mind of King Hussein who said Tuesday that the Arab people are sacrificing everything for the defence of Arab land against external forces and foreign aggression. In his iftar banquet, the King stressed that the Arab Nation is unbroken by the different attacks by foreign invaders since the Arab people are ready to stand together with all their might to repel aggression and end injustice and achieve victory. The people of Jordan will remain committed to supporting the people of Palestine and Iraq in the face of danger in implementation of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt. King Hussein said that Jordan will fight alongside with its sister Arab states whenever any battle is imposed on any Arab country. This country, the monarch said, will remain a staunch supporter of all Arabs and will continue to strive to fulfil national aspirations. Jordan, King Hussein said, will continue to work and fight alongside all Arabs in the face of those harbouring evil intentions against this nation.

## Anti-apartheid papers struggle to survive in South Africa

By Rich Mkhondo  
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — Gabu Tugwana, acting editor of The New Nation, surveys a newsroom where journalists labour to produce a paper that only they will read.

This scene has been played out daily since March 22, when the South African government gagged the anti-apartheid paper with a renewable three-month ban.

"We still produce a mock paper for our staff and stockpile stories for June 10 when we finally hit the streets," Tugwana added.

Tugwana remains defiant although the paper's editor Zwellie Sisulu is in jail — detained without charges under emergency regulations — and the publication ban could be extended for further three-month periods until the new nation's Roman Catholic Church backers can no longer subsidise it.

"We will not stop fighting, we will not stop protesting against Pretoria's unjust practices. The closure of the paper would not be the first attack on basic democratic freedoms — nor would it be the last," Tugwana said.

Meanwhile bored reporters

wonder about their futures as they fill in the time in their run-down offices.

The newsrooms of every outspoken anti-government newspaper in South Africa may soon look like this as the government presses home its attack on the non-commercial "alternative press," using the tough emergency regulations announced last August.

The alternative press, largely backed by community organisations and anti-apartheid groups including churches, see their duty as reporting the facts which the commercial papers are too cautious to print.

### Gov't warnings

The government has already issued warnings to the Weekly Mail, to South, a Cape Town-based weekly, to the top-selling black daily the Sowetan and six other publications.

The Sowetan, though run by and aimed at blacks, is a commercial paper owned by white big business. The reasons for its warning are not clear.

According to Tugwana, the government is using three-month bans to disguise the fact it is shutting the newspapers down for ever. "But that is what they mean to do," he said.

Meanwhile, Home Affairs

The New Nation used to sell about 60,000 copies a week and had a much wider readership.

Tugwana said he had received thousands of letters from concerned readers and had scores of sympathetic visitors.

Last week two members of West Germany's Greens Party dropped in for a 45-minute meeting with Tugwana, after which they praised the paper as the true voice of voteless blacks.

"What is it about The New Nation that irritates the South African government? I guess it must be its stand against apartheid," said Greens member of parliament Willi Hoss.

Pretoria has praised "the commercial press" — papers owned as profit-making ventures by businesses — saying there has been a reduction in reporting that could promote a revolutionary climate, one of the grounds on which the government can close a newspaper under the emergency regulations.

### Next in line

But Charles Villa-Vicencio, chairman of the trustees of South Newspaper, said the commercial press could be next in line after the government is finished with the alternative press.

Meanwhile, Home Affairs

Minister Stoffel Botha last week warned the Weekly Mail it could be next in line to be shut for three months under the government's press curbs.

Weekly Mail associate editor Irwin Manoim said in an article Thursday that for his paper the three month suspension is the same as a death sentence. The paper does not have the same backing as The New Nation.

"Suspension will indeed mean death — commercial death. And the minister will be free to say his hands are clean, he did not close us," Manoim said.

Manoim said supporters of the alternative press formed a committee last month to fight for their survival.

"If we are closed down, we won't go unnoticed," he said.

In Cape Town, Rashid Seria, editor of South, said he expected his newspaper would be closed down this month.

"The minister has given us till the 4th of May to argue, but we believe he plans to close us down, most definitely," Seria said.

He said South, with weekly sales of 12,000, would have trouble surviving a three-month closure "but it is true that we are getting a lot of support and pledges of assistance."



Khalil Al Wazir

## Farewell to a friend

Dr. Uri Davis, an expatriate Israeli research fellow in Middle Eastern studies at British universities and a Jewish anti-Zionist, commemorates Wazir:

resolutions, where all Palestinian-Arabs, residents, exiles and refugees and all the Jewish residents of the country will live in freedom, harmony and peace.

The Israeli government accuses you of murder: of being the Palestinian leader who is most responsible for the shedding of Jewish Israeli blood. Wrong. Your hands are clean of murder. Theirs are not. They came under the cover of dark and murdered you in front of your family. They are hoping to breed hatred in the hearts of your children, brothers, friends, comrades, people. They will fail.

With quiet perseverance and constancy, you built with your brothers in the leadership of the PLO the beginning towards a future of freedom and dignity in Palestine. Your life and your work stand as a monument for the future — The Guardian.

## Tamil rebels take to the jungle

By Marilyn Odchimir  
Reuter

lett.

### Scattered

"We have not retreated in the jungles. We've just scattered ourselves after Jaffna," said the Tigers' local political commander Dinesh.

Journalists still meet the rebels in the Vanni. But in the jungle the Tigers can no longer display the public panache of their days in urban Jaffna.

But last October Indian troops drove the separatist guerrillas out of the Jaffna peninsula. Now the hospitality offered by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is simpler — home-cooked vegetables, meat curry and rice, eaten with the fingers in a jungle hut.

After the Indian offensive the Tigers moved south of the peninsula to regroup in the Vanni, a large area of jungle and rice-fields.

"The Vanni is ideal for guerrillas," says a senior Sri Lankan military officer. "There are probably 1,000 armed terrorists in the Vanni and about 3,000 to 4,000 members who provide the logistics."

Up to 50,000 Indian soldiers have been sent to Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces to enforce a pact between Colombo and New Delhi aimed at ending the guerrillas' fight for a separate Tamil homeland.

"You have to approach from all four directions and with at least 200 troops," he said. "You can't easily round up a place because the element of surprise is gone."

The officer added: "The terrorists still have a very, very good radio communications network. But the IPKF has improved over the last month in their road checking and deception planning."

## Diplomats and conservationists argue over Antarctica

By Andrew Allison  
Reuter

WELLINGTON — Antarctica's bleakness and inhospitable conditions have long protected it from human activity but the potential mineral wealth of the frozen continent is making it ripe for exploitation.

Diplomats and energy officials from 37 Antarctic treaty nations are meeting in Wellington this month to set mining rules during the Antarctic minerals convention. Several environmental organisations are on hand to voice their opposition.

The two groups are not strangers. Since the first convention in 1982, also in Wellington, they have travelled the globe together thrashing out ground rules for Antarctica's future. Six conventions later a draft being considered at the month-long meeting that began on May 2 says it is time for a ruling on mining.

The continent has been protected for 30 years by the Antarctic treaty, which ensures its freedom from weapons and nuclear power and promotes the sharing of scientific information. The treaty says nothing about mineral exploitation.

Catherine Wallace, the New Zealand convenor of ASOC, says this is only part of the truth.

"Yes, it is an improvement (on other such treaties) but it's still pretty terrible," she said. She says it is being compared with other treaties that have only

solution on mining by June 2, to the chagrin of groups like Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and the Antarctic and Southern Oceans Coalition, ASOC.

Interest in the resources of Antarctica has grown markedly since New Zealand suggested in 1975 that Antarctica should be made a world park. The suggestion was rejected by treaty countries who would not commit themselves to leaving Antarctic wealth underground in perpetuity.

This interest in mineral wealth has led to the decision to formalise rights to these resources.

### Part of the truth

The rules were virtually set at the last convention in Wellington in January and most diplomats consider them protective of the sensitive environment.

"It will set environmentally tough standards which will make it tougher than any other international treaty that has ever been negotiated," a New Zealand diplomat, who did not wish to be identified, told Reuters.

"It's major function is not to protect the environment but to facilitate mining and to provide material accommodations between the parties," she said.

Wallace says ASOC and the 200 environmental groups under its umbrella want Antarctica declared a world park.

But Antarctic treaty countries fear dwindling world energy reserves could cause countries to ignore the ice's world park status in an "unregulated scramble" for its resources. They say regulation is of great importance.

Conservationists reply that countries are more likely to mine in Antarctica with regulation than without. They say the Antarctic treaty's lack of rules on mineral exploitation means there is too much financial and political insecurity for countries to risk unapproved mining.

### Media not allowed

"What financier would provide money for mining on the ice if he was told the miner did not even have a claim to the land?" asked Lena Hagelin, the international political coordinator for Greenpeace.

"Unfortunately there are no human constituents down there and penguins can't enter the debate," she said.

peace's Antarctic campaign.

Conservation groups are concerned about the make-up of its convention and the secrecy of its meetings. No outsiders or members of the media are allowed to attend.

"Diplomats represent a very narrow group of human beings," Wallace said. She maintains energy company representatives at the convention are "industry zealots" and says ASOC had to fight just to get two non-governmental organisation representatives at the meeting.

She fears the convention is being concluded too quickly and with insufficient public input. She believes it is deliberately being pushed through before "the disastrous ecological effect" of large-scale activity on the ice is widely understood.

She added that possible loopholes could result from a rushed resolution and advantage would be taken of these by unscrupulous miners.

Wallace says a problem for Antarctic pressure groups is that most people see Antarctica as far away with little real significance to their lives.

"Unfortunately there are no human constituents down there and penguins can't enter the debate," she said.

### Another prime minister

theory samples from green monkeys, and those from West Africans, become contaminated with the bug which triggered the search in the first place — the macaque virus?

If the AIDS virus really did evolve this way, virologists would expect genetic changes to have occurred in the viruses as they moved from one species to the next, making each virus different from — though related to — the others. But when another group of Harvard researchers compared the genetic structures of the two "new" viruses, STLV-3agm and HTLV-4, they found them 99 per cent identical.

More surprisingly, the two "new" viruses were all but indistinguishable from the original macaque virus. In April 1987 the second Harvard group said it was startling to see such similarity between three viruses infecting three different species of animal.

As a result, a cloud of suspicion descended on the Kanki and Essex results.

One possible explanation was contamination. Had the labora-

tory samples from green monkeys, and those from West Africans, become contaminated

## 'No compromise over land'

(Continued from page 1)

the Arab Nation from aggression.

The King recalled that Jordan had faced numerous challenges and was subjected to various economic pressures in the past but had firmly withstood all these difficulties.

Jordan and the Jordanian people will constitute a strong fortress in the face of all hostile elements and all forms of aggression, the King said.

The King voiced deep pride in the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and said Jordan would continue to extend help and support for the Palestinians.

Jordan will continue to seek an international peace conference to help the Palestinian people regain their land and their rights and is ready to attend this conference independently or in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the King said.

Jordan has noted that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had approached an Arab country for forming a joint delegation to the conference and this means that the PLO is willing to attend jointly with other Arab delegations, the King said.

The Great Arab Revolt, which broke out at the turn of the century, came to liberate and unify the Arab people everywhere and the late Al Hussein Ibn Ali defended Arab rights in Palestine and was banished and exposed to all forms of hardships because of his noble stand, King Hussein said.

He said King Abdullah led the Armed Forces to defend the Arab land and was able to save the West Bank and the Arab city of Jerusalem from Israeli occupation.

Israel, King Hussein said, does not realise that force cannot achieve peace despite having witnessed the result through 20 years of occupying Arab land in Palestine and in its recurrent invasions of Lebanon. Israel tends to ignore justice which is instrumental for any permanent and honourable peace, the King said.

The King reviewed domestic achievements and said the Armed Forces which numbered 6,500 thirty five years ago now number 120,000. He said Jordan considers any aggression on any Arab land as directed against Jordan and for this reason it continues to support Iraq, which is defending the Arab Order and protecting the Arabian Peninsula and the Arab countries at large from Iranian attempts to build a Persian empire at Arab expense.

## Strike paralyses occupied lands

(Continued from page 1)

open their stores.

In Hebron, a bus was set on fire and destroyed Wednesday morning when it came to take workers to their jobs despite the general strike. No one was hurt.

A large processions was held in the village of Bani Naim where troops shot dead two Palestinians Tuesday, villagers said. The village was declared a closed military area and soldiers looked on but did not interfere in the march.

Meanwhile, Israeli police said they were considering charging a Palestinian woman with causing the death of an Israeli girl who was accidentally shot by an Israeli settler.

An official army report said last week Jewish settler Tirza Port, 15, was accidentally shot

## Resistance battles Israelis

(Continued from page 1)

helicopter gunships strafed the area with heavy machineguns and launched missiles.

They said black smoke billowed amid the deafening thunder of artillery. Electricity and telephone cables and debris from wrecked houses blocked the roads and streets were deserted except for militiamen.

"We were fighting in Maidoun. Our morale is very high. We are receiving reinforcements," said Hizbullah fighter Ali Harakeh al Mashghara.

Another fighter said: "We will continue to fight until the last drop of our blood. Even if we all have to die, the Israelis will not be allowed to stay here."

Amal said three of its men were killed and two wounded while Hizbullah said two fighters were wounded. Both said the number of casualties could be higher but were difficult to determine while battles continued.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the operation should end within two days. Rabin at one point supervised the advance from a hilltop near Mai-doun.

"It will not drag on and I am sure that within 48 hours we will be able to bring it to a conclusion and to bring our forces back to the bases from which they set out," Rabin said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the push would not lead to a prolonged entanglement in Lebanon or provoke a confrontation with Syria.

Speaking in the north Galilee town of Beit Shean, Shamir said Israel did not plan to expand its

## Hassan II, U.N. chief hold private talks

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco and United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar had an hour-long private talk Tuesday night on the 12-year-old Western Sahara conflict, the U.N. chief's spokesman said Wednesday.

Spokesman Francois Giuliani said Perez de Cuellar would now contact the Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for independence of the former Spanish territory.

Morocco has severed ties with Algeria and quit the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) because it admitted Polisario's self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic as a member in 1984.

The U.N. and the OAU are trying to resolve the issue through a referendum. A U.N. technical mission visited the area last November to gather data for arranging a ceasefire and a referendum.

Giuliani said no sides were present at the talks, which followed an iftar at the royal palace.

## France expels former hostage intermediary

PARIS (AP) — Omran Adham, a Syrian businessman who has undertaken several mediation missions for the release of French hostages in Lebanon, was expelled from France Tuesday night, Arab diplomatic and French government sources said.

They said the Interior Ministry used a special administrative procedure, "absolute urgency," to expel Adham, who is said to be close to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

The procedure means judicial approval is not necessary. It is also used to expel Basque separatists to Spain.

The expulsion order was signed by Interior Minister Charles Pasqua and Adham left Tuesday night by plane for another European capital, the sources said.

The ministry declined to comment.

Adham has a Syrian diplomatic passport but is not on the official diplomatic list issued by the Foreign Ministry. He has resided in Paris for 11 years and his wife and four children are French.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Pasqua, who is close to Premier Jacques Chirac, was announced by Adham's persistent statements to the media about an imminent release of the three hostages just before the first round of the presidential elections April 24.

It was Perez de Cuellar's second round of discussions with the king since he arrived Monday to press for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The spokesman did not say when Perez de Cuellar would confer with Polisario, but the U.N. chief had said earlier that he hoped to meet Algerian, Mauritanian and Polisario leaders during an OAU summit in Addis Ababa later this month.

When Spain ceded the Western Sahara in 1975 it was divided between Mauritania and Morocco.

Perez de Cuellar was scheduled to visit Mauritania and Algeria after Morocco but announced Monday that because of unspecified problems in New York he was cutting short his tour in order to be back at U.N. headquarters Thursday.

Giuliani said Perez de Cuellar, who was spending the day inspecting U.N. offices in Rabat, was to leave for New York via Paris Wednesday afternoon.

## New U.S. naval protection policy now in effect in Gulf

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The new U.S. policy of extending naval protection to neutral ships in the Gulf has been formally implemented, the Defence Department said Tuesday.

Under the new policy announced last Friday, U.S. warships in the Gulf may come to the aid of any neutral, friendly commercial ship not serving ports in Iran or Iraq if the ship comes under attack in international waters.

Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci said last Friday the new policy would be implemented "once we have informed those free world, non-belligerent countries that maintain shipping interests in the Gulf."

Dan Howard, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, said "The appropriate people have been notified" and the new policy was now "in effect."

Howard said the policy applied equally to both Iran and Iraq when it came to breaking up attacks on merchant ships.

"If it meets the criteria...then the rules are the same for whoever the attacker might be," Howard said.

The spokesman noted, however, that the United States did not expect any confrontations with Iraqi forces because that country has limited its attacks to ships steaming inside certain declared exclusion or war zones.

"The pattern is pretty clear," said Howard. "The exceptions, the attacks have been for the most part by Iran outside the exclusion zone."

"We are prepared, under certain circumstances, to offer assistance to...non-belligerent vessels serving neutral ports that are attacked by anyone outside the exclusion zones."

The Pentagon said most of what it estimated were 201 attacks by Iran since early 1986

had been outside the zone.

Redman said. "Senior Iranian officials in recent weeks have threatened terrorist acts in retribution for U.S. actions in the Gulf."

"The U.S. takes all such threats seriously and has advised posts to take appropriate precautions," Redman said.

A warning was sent last Wednesday to U.S. diplomatic missions, military installations and American companies.

State Department officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, quoted the warning as

saying: "The U.S. government possesses information which leads it to believe that the government of Iran will authorise terrorist attacks against U.S. targets in the very near future. We further believe that these attacks will be deliberately designed to cause U.S. fatalities and/or destruction to U.S. facilities."

It said the Middle East, South-East Asia and Europe were the most likely areas for attack.

State Department officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, quoted the warning as

## Israel accepts mediation on Taba, not U.S. formula

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli leaders agreed Wednesday to empower U.S. envoy Abraham Sofaer to mediate between Israel and Egypt over their Taba border dispute but without accepting his proposal, Israeli officials said.

Israel retained Taba when it withdrew from the rest of the Sinai Peninsula under the 1979 treaty with Egypt. It claims that on older maps, the area was part of Palestine and should now belong to Israel.

The arbiters were due to render their verdict by July 15 at the latest but diplomats had said it could be issued this month unless the parties request a delay.

A senior Egyptian official said in Cairo Tuesday that Egypt would accept no compromise that gave it less than "full and absolute sovereignty" over Taba.

Aides to Shamir say he opposes Sofaer's proposal in its current form, since it would give Egypt not only sovereignty but also full control over the area.

Foreign ministry officials have said Peres regards the Sofaer proposal as a work-in-progress.

Gabi Desta said he left Ethiopia because "I was going to be killed."

The Ethiopian authorities suspected him of being a rebel in the northern province of Tigré because he was acquainted with a dissident from there. "He mentioned my name before being killed himself," Desta said.

Desta told of escaping hidden aboard a ship. He was discovered and thrown off into the wilderness of Egypt's Red Sea coast with the equivalent of \$10 and a loaf of bread, compliments of the captain. It took him four days to walk to the nearest town.

He awaits resettlement in the United States.

A friend of Desta has not been so lucky. The 19-year-old Ethiopian, who would allow the use only of his given name Ahmad, said he is in limbo, without identity papers and facing an uncertain future.

He lost his refugee status because he left Djibouti, the country where it was granted. UNHCR rules require asylum-seekers to remain where they are proclaimed refugees in order to be resettled.

"I went to border town by truck, then on to Sudan and Egypt by foot. Forty days of walking, except for three days on a boat on the Nile," Ahmad said.

He and others turn to the refugee ministry at St. Andrew's after rejection by the UNHCR to get help with efforts to legalise their stay and eventually to resettle.

"We continue trying to see if they really need help," said Nelly van Doorn, a Dutch volunteer at the ministry. "They're so scared they lie a lot, but when you hear the truth, it's so much worse."

## Egypt — historical refuge turns transit stop

By Nejla Sammakia  
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Since Biblical times, the oppressed have looked to Egypt for safe haven. Today's refugees, however, simply pass through heading for greener pastures.

Many denied refugee status under an internationally monitored system, go into hiding out of fear they will be sent home. Mahmoud Abbas, in charge of refugee affairs at the Foreign Ministry, said some turn to crime to support themselves.

Egypt is what the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) calls a "transit country." Cairo representatives of the UNHCR decide whether applicants for asylum qualify as refugees under the 1951 Geneva Convention. Egypt allows those who do to stay until they are provided permanent homes in the United States, Canada, Australia or elsewhere.

"Cairo is huge, and there is a constant flow of foreigners," said Michel Gaudreault, an officer at the UNHCR office. "We receive about 10 a week..."

Sometimes young people come here hoping to reestablish in Canada or Australia and invent stories of persecution. We try to reach the truth and say no only when we're absolutely sure."

Still, official figures show that only 10-20 percent of asylum seekers obtained refugee status from the UNHCR and Egypt last year. They joined about 1,000 already awaiting resettlement. The Foreign Ministry's Abbas estimated that 30,000 are in the country illegally after they were denied refugee status.

In Biblical times, Joseph and Mary brought the

infant Jesus Christ to Egypt after King Herod ordered the slaughter of newborn males in the Jerusalem area.

In this century prominent exiles found refuge in Egypt, including the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi of Iran in 1980 and ousted Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri in 1985. The Shah died and was buried in Cairo.

While such people come as guests of the government, less well-placed refugees are handled according to reservations to the refugees convention that Egypt laid down when it signed in 1980.

In general, the reservations deny refugees free education and rationed, heavily subsidised food, restricted to Egypt's constantly growing population of 54 million.

Many of the dispossessed come to escape civil war and persecution at home, mainly Ethiopia, Chad and other sub-Saharan countries. They seek across the 500-kilometre frontier with Sudan to the south or stow away aboard ships, jumping ship at ports in the Red Sea or the Suez Canal.

Abdul Mawla Al Solhi, the UNHCR's Cairo delegate, said most refugee seekers were African, but others come from "everywhere except the United States and Western Europe." And with dim prospects for peace and plenty in sub-Saharan Africa, the influx of desperate Ethiopians, Chadians, Ugandans, Zairians and others can be expected to continue.

Refugee status is granted to people fleeing political or religious persecution, but not merely economic hardships.

"The most difficult moment is when I know my decision will immediately affect (an applicant's)

future," said the UNHCR's Gaudreault. "For example, if I am called to the airport I know he might be repatriated (if denied refugee status). If I have a doubt, I decide to keep him."

### Security concerns

The Foreign Ministry's Abbas said the government's main problem is not with the official refugees but with aliens living illegally in Egypt.

"Now there are almost 30,000 who have gone underground," he said. "We are after them. They commit crimes, steal, cheat."

"If they are arrested, then we try to find another transit country. Although they have harmed us, we don't send them back to their country of origin."

A senior official of the Interior Ministry, which is responsible for public order, said, however, that the aliens do not pose any threat to security through crime. He said he could not give an estimate of the number of illegal aliens.

St. Andrew's United Church, an Anglican church in central Cairo, is a favourite gathering place for Ethiopians, some of them accepted as refugees and others waiting for clearance. They sit in the church's courtyard, sunning themselves or reading mystery novels, doing odd jobs or playing football in the recreation room.

### Tough life

And they talk of life at home under what they describe as a harsh regime in Addis Ababa, which jails dissenters for long periods and forces them into battle against guerrillas in the northern part of the country.

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# Need for interest rate liberalisation oscillates among bankers in Jordan

By Salameh Ne'matt  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**AMMAN** — A consensus emerged at a seminar Wednesday over the need to introduce new flexibility to interest rates in the Jordanian financial system despite some reservations by Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) officials and private bankers.

The seminar on "interest rate liberalisation," co-sponsored by the CBJ and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), heard several views on the pros and cons of deregulation and on calls for structural adjustments in the Kingdom's financial body to accompany steps towards more liberalisation tailored for the country's needs.

#### Maher Shukri

CBJ Deputy Governor Maher Shukri said the central bank policy is to gradually introduce more flexibility in interest rates, stressing the need for new financial instruments to be adopted by the financial community.

"We care for stability in the economy that is ensured by a sound banking system," Shukri told the seminar. He discussed the importance of reconsidering the prices of banking services and guaranteeing banks' profitability as a basis for a sound financial system.

#### David Willey

Dr. David Willey, an advisor with the U.S. Morgan Stanley International Inc. said that economic liberalisation introduced all over the world affected changes on the banking profession and forced banks to "scour around and become more entrepreneurial."

Dismissing arguments against deregulation, Willey said liberalisation "does not mean a loss in profitability for banks as a result of a possible rise in interest rates, but that such a move would only force banks to improve management and efficiency or lose out to market forces."

He warned that a continued ceiling on interest rates in Jordan could lead to a capital outflow and that liberalisation of interest rates had to apply on lending as well as deposits if the process is going to be effective in boosting economic activity.

Furthermore, Willey said that free interest rates "should not be associated with higher rates."

#### Michel Marto

Bank of Jordan General Manager Michel Marto agreed with Willey that control of interest rates adversely affected efficiency but pointed out that "U.S. and Jordanian economies are different," and that Jordan "does not have the U.S. ability to attract (foreign) funds."

Referring to CBJ's licensing of foreign banks in Jordan, Marto argued that "the fact that Jordan is overbanked did not add much to either banking techniques nor did it increase efficiency and improve competition."

He said the CBJ-imposed ceiling on deposit and lending rates have made investment in Jordan more difficult.

Commenting on Willey's paper, Marto said that in Jordan's case, monetary policy "has to be very innovative to get the country out of the present slowdown."

He said that one advantage Jordan had was that CBJ "never forced banks to allocate a percentage of their credit to certain sectors" which, he added, "causes distortions."

#### Ummaya Touqan

CBJ's Dr. Ummaya Touqan spoke against deregulation and questioned the need for further liberalisation.

He said that according to studies on Jordan's financial system, higher interest rates in the Kingdom did not affect currency exchange rates as is the case in the United States.

He said he did not consider Jordanian interest rates as overregulated and that there was enough room for economic activity.

#### Munther Fahoum

Munther Fahoum, a senior Arab Bank official was against deregulation but backed calls for

more flexibility and adjustments in the present financial system.

He speculated that decontrolling interest rates could cause these rates to shoot up to over 15 per cent on deposits and over 17 per cent on loans.

Such a development, he predicted, would sink financial companies into the red and cause depression.

He said that high rates on deposits "would keep the money in banks" and subsequently aggravate the problem on unemployment with the decline in investments.

#### Fahed Fanek

Prominent economist Fahed Fanek disagreed with Fahoum's analysis saying the latter's arguments were based on a static situation and that market forces were capable of readjusting and reshaping the whole system.

"We feel quite comfortable with the present system, with some adjustments and more flexibility," he added.

#### Jawad Hadid

Also speaking at the seminar, Arab Jordan Investment Bank Deputy General Manager Jawad Hadid said that liberalisation of interest rates must be accompanied by a comprehensive restructuring of the whole financial system in Jordan.

"Pursuing such a policy under rigid structure of interest rates will subject the Jordan dinar to substantial fluctuations which would lead savers to hedge against its depreciation by buying foreign currency and transferring their savings abroad."

Jardaneh suggested that "it is appropriate to support this policy by a flexible interest rate structure in order to allow the market to determine at what return a saver in Jordan will continue to hold the Jordan dinar without a need for hedging."

"Unless such a policy is being pursued," he warned, "it could be argued that the authorities in Jordan are creating a serious situation that encourages capital flight and limits capital inflow."

Arab Financial Corporation Chairman Khalil Salem advocated that before any changes are done on the financial system, there is a need to find out

what extent are our investments sensitive to interest rates and whether there is a real correlation between them."

"We have to know first to what extent the CBJ rate is the pivot around which everything else revolves," he said.

Dr. Salem, a former finance minister and former central bank governor, was in favour of innovations but at the same time, he warned: "We should not think that what is good for the Philippines and the United States should work for Jordan. Let us first find out the weaknesses in our system."

#### Basil Jardaneh

Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation Managing Director Basil Jardaneh said it was preferable in Jordan to leave it to the market forces to determine an interest rate structure that will create a balance between financial variables.

Regarding the foreign exchange market, Jardaneh said the monetary authority in Jordan is following a flexible policy with regard to determining the value of the Jordan dinar.

"Pursuing such a policy under rigid structure of interest rates will subject the Jordan dinar to substantial fluctuations which would lead savers to hedge against its depreciation by buying foreign currency and transferring their savings abroad."

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"Unless such a policy is being pursued," he warned, "it could be argued that the authorities in Jordan are creating a serious situation that encourages capital flight and limits capital inflow."

Xerox introduces new copiers

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Xerox Corp. marked the 50th anniversary year of plain-paper copying Tuesday with a new line of products that includes its first personal copier, made for Xerox by Japanese rival Sharp Corp.

The members of the 50 series have more features and higher

price tags than members of Xerox's successful 10 series, which helped the company begin to regain market share.

Xerox had long resisted introducing a personal copier, saying it could not justify the investment necessary to compete with Japanese companies.

price tags than members of Xerox's successful 10 series, which helped the company begin to regain market share.

Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, think that the situation will not be that bad," he stated.

"They think at present there is a balance between oil supply and demand and predict that there will be an increase in demand in the third and fourth quarters (of 1988) due to the winter season, and prices will not go down even though OPEC members have not reached agreement in their meeting (last week)."

"The third group, including Indonesia and Nigeria, estimate the current oil supply in the world market at around 64 days and it is not too great to affect prices. We believe prices, when they do go down, will only decline slightly," he added.

"These are the differences among members. The first group suggested that production cuts (among OPEC members) of between 600,000 and one million barrels per day are needed to prevent prices from falling to \$10 a barrel."

"But Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries did not want to lower their production by so much," he added.

"Another group, comprising

oil prices crashed to less than

\$10 a barrel in 1986 but recovered through joint action by the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) which set a reference price of \$18.

New downward pressure on

prices in 1988 brought an offer from some non-OPEC producers to join OPEC in curbing exports. But a meeting of the group in Vienna last week failed to agree on OPEC action in response to the other.

Referring to last week's OPEC

meeting, the source said there

were basically three camps within

the group, with differing views

about how to respond to the

non-OPEC offer.

"But Saudi Arabia and the

Gulf countries did not want to

lower their production by so

much," he added.

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# Egyptian minister begins visit to Jordan tomorrow

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — Egyptian International Cooperation Minister Maurice Makramallah is due here on Friday to take part in a general assembly meeting of the Jordanian-Egyptian Investment Com-

pany.

The meeting is expected to endorse the company's statutes and the steps taken by the company's board of directors since the formation of the company last November.

The Egyptian minister is due to pay a visit to Aqaba, where he

will inspect sites for launching a fishing company project, and the Disi district in southern Jordan to inspect a location where preparatory work is underway for establishing a joint company for the production of lean meat and fowl.

Makramallah and Jordan's minister of industry, trade and supply will co-chair the general assembly meeting Sunday, according to a report in the Al Ra'i Arabic newspaper.

## AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for May 4, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	138144	JD 152086	281
Top three companies:	6350	JD 17899	16
National Steel Industries	12000	JD 18000	32
Universal Chemical Industries	6795	JD 16177	24
Parallel market:	50334	JD 26048	—
Development bonds:	409	4362	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

**LONDON (R)** — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8635/45	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2380/90	Canadian dollar
	1.6805/10	Deutschmarks
	1.8845/50	Dutch guilders
	1.4010/20	Swiss francs
	35.13/16	Belgian francs
	5.7100/10	French francs
	1250/1251	Italian lire
	125.00/10	Japanese yen
	5.8830/80	Swedish crowns
	6.1730/80	Norwegian crowns
One ounce of gold	442.00/442.50	U.S. dollars

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

**SYDNEY** — The market closed easier, forced down mainly by heavy selling pressure on resources stocks because of a fall in the international gold price and the strong Australian dollar. The All-Ordinaries Index fell 1.8 to 1,443.2.

**TOKYO** — Market closed for holiday, reopens May 6.

**HONG KONG** — Prices closed sharply higher, led by property shares. The Hang Seng Index rose 38.53 to end at 2,641.13, the day's high.

**SINGAPORE** — Prices closed marginally higher for the fifth day on selected buying support and some bargain-hunting in moderate trading. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 3.79 to 972.68.

**BOMBAY** — Share prices closed higher in moderate dealings after the exchange authorities further relaxed curbs on forward trading.

**FRANKFURT** — Prices ended higher and near the session's best levels, boosted by favourable company results, a firmer dollar and Tuesday's higher Wall Street close. The Commerzbank Index, calculated at mid-session, rose 9.1 to 1,355.3.

**ZURICH** — Prices edged higher in dull trading, led by participation certificates and bearer shares. Registered shares, which can only be bought by Swiss, declined slightly. The Swiss Index rose 1.4 to 821.4.

**PARIS** — Shares ended firmer in moderate trading, with bid speculation on several blue chip stocks boosting buying.

**LONDON** — Share prices fell in late trading, taking the FTSE 100 share index below the 1,800 level after Wall Street showed a softer tendency. At 1508 GMT the index was down 12 at 1,794.6.

**NEW YORK** — Stocks were lower in morning trading, with blue chips moving in a tight band. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 12 at 2,046.

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# Sports

## NBA coach inducted into Basketball Hall of Fame

**SPRINGFIELD**, Massachusetts (AP) — The coach of the National Basketball Association (NBA) and Washington Bullets, Wes Unseld summed up his playing style in one word — "ugly" — prior to his induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame Tuesday.

"I didn't do anything very pretty. My contributions were in the intangibles," Unseld said. "But they were the type of things that help to lead a team."

Also to be installed were Clyde Lovellette, who ushered in the era of the high-scoring big center at Kansas in the 1950s, Oregon State coach Ralph Miller, the winningest active coach in Division I, and the late Bobby McElrath, who quit high school in his freshman year to become a

pro star in the 1930s.

They bring to 163 the number of individuals installed in the hall of fame. Four teams have also been inducted.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet," said Unseld, who grabbed a hour's sleep after the Bullets 114-106 overtime victory over Detroit Monday before heading for Springfield. "The last couple of things I haven't been able to give much thought to anything else but making the playoffs and trying to do well."

During his 13-year playing career with the Bullets, Unseld averaged 14 rebounds and 10.8 points over 984 games and led the Bullets to the 1978 NBA title.

Lovellette now teaches teen-agers who have been in trouble with the law in Wabash.

## YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carol Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1988

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Although the morning can be given over to considering new ways of channelling your creative energy, later in the day you should keep your eyes open for a great opportunity to increase your wealth.

**ARIES** (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) An individual with ideas quite different from yours may have some great suggestions, so listen to this person. Get plenty of rest this evening.

**Taurus** (Apr. 20 to May 20) If you change your perspective, you can solve a problem which has been troubling you for some time. Be more understanding of your mate.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 21) Someone may oppose you in a way which could make you angry, but stay calm, control your temper and you will win in the long run.

**MOON CHILDREN** (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't take any foolish risks this morning, and avoid arguing with a co-worker about something over which you have no control.

**LEO** (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You need to carry through with any duties or appointments for which you are responsible. You may have to rearrange your schedule to do this.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get an early start today, and you can

accomplish a great deal. A family member may be argumentative, but don't lose your temper.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A troubling situation at home will require your full attention. Be sure to send out important correspondence, and drive with great care today.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Instead of trying to muddle through on guesswork, get the information you need to handle an important new project properly.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may feel confused this morning, so don't try to make any important decisions. Pay a visit to an old friend this evening.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't dwell on your past mistakes; start out with a clean slate and get much accomplished today. Be more affectionate to your mate.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Instead of asking a friend for help, try to rely more on your own fine abilities. Be slow and careful in all of your dealings today.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Avoid an irate superior who is looking for a place to vent his anger. Enjoy some hobby you like in the company of good friends tonight.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1988

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Your high level of energy should be used to finish up all your work. Then you can start the weekend on a positive note. Get together with some of your best friends this evening for a night on the town.

**ARIES** (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get an early start on Wednesday matters this evening, and you can accomplish a great deal. Be sure to get plenty of rest tonight.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 20 to May 20) Take the information you need before beginning a new project, and avoid being interrupted later. Stick to your schedule today.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 21) Stop beating around the bush, and be straightforward when presenting your ideas to others. Enjoy the company of your mate tonight.

**MOON CHILDREN** (June 22 to Jul. 21) Put aside personal matters for now, and concentrate on improving your financial status. Be sure to drive with the utmost care.

**LEO** (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) If a co-worker seems a bit confused with a new project, offer to help this person. If you do so, you will have made a good, long-lasting friend.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You can accomplish a great deal today

by using your creative abilities. Have a good time tonight, but don't spend too much money.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get your house fixed up early today, as you may have some unexpected guests this evening. Make some sensible plans for the night.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) It is very important that you handle all of your correspondence today. Don't go off on any strange tangents this evening.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Take the time to organize your papers and hobbies so they will be easier to handle in the days ahead.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Your property may need a repair.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You would be wise to stop daydreaming and handle an important personal matter. Your mate may need some special attention.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Visit a few old friends today, as these people can offer you some valuable advice. It is important that you use much care in motion of any kind.

## UEFA limits foreign players in major European competitions

**LONDON** (AP) — The British soccer clubs are in a state of shock and confusion over radical moves that may bar many of their top stars from European competition.

The sport's European governing body, UEFA, announced Tuesday that beginning in 1991, no club will be allowed to field more than four foreign players in the Champions Cup, Cupwinners Cup or UEFA will hit extremely hard.

"I don't know how the clubs will cope," one British official said.

While the rule theoretically takes effect next season, UEFA adopted a three-year break-in period that allows players already under contract with non-home land sides to compete.

The new rules coincide with European Community legislation on total freedom of movement by players, also to be introduced in

1991. UEFA president Jacques Georges said the action was intended to "protect the interests of youth" in every country against the trend of overseas transfers, and give more clubs "an equal chance" of success.

Most countries already impose strict import regulations on foreign players. Some, such as The Netherlands where no restrictions are imposed, will also be affected.

But nowhere will the full force be more strongly felt than in Britain, which for generations has enjoyed free movement of players among clubs from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

All these areas have their own national soccer federations and play as separate countries in the World Cup and European Championships.

"Of course British clubs will feel it is particularly harsh," Georges said. "But if you insist on four places in the World Cup,

and four votes within UEFA, you cannot expect to be treated as a special case. We are talking about separate soccer federations not countries. Britain has four federations, not one."

English clubs are barred from European competition because of the 1985 Heysel stadium riots. A decision on the future of English clubs will be taken by UEFA at the end of June, following the European Championship finals in East Germany.

If the clubs are re-admitted, however, more restrictions will follow in three years' time. And Liverpool, the most successful team in Europe for a decade, could be one of the clubs hardest hit.

"If you take our past history, UEFA's new eligibility rule would make it impossible for us," said Peter Robinson, secretary of Liverpool, a four-time Champions Cup winner.

## Werder clinches West German Soccer League Championship

**BONN** (R) — Werder Bremen clinched the West German first division title that eluded them so narrowly last year by beating Eintracht Frankfurt 1-0 Tuesday.

Werder, who led throughout

the 1986-87 season only to be pipped by Bayern Munich in the last weeks of the season, won the title this year with three games still to play. With 50 points, they have an unassailable lead.

Karl-Heinz Riedle scoring the only goal of the match 20 minutes before the final whistle in a game marked by Bremen's cautious, defensive play.

National squad member Frank Neubarth slightly soured matters for the new champions by being sent off after elbowing Dieter Schindwein in the face while preventing the Eintracht player from gaining the ball.

Schindwein was taken off on a

stretcher and Neubarth got the red card.

Striker Gunnar Sauer told journalists after the match: "It's a super feeling."

"We've been able to shake off the blues after being knocked out of the UEFA and West German Cup competitions and now we've taken the most important title of the lot."

Bayern remained contenders for second place — a reversal of roles with Werder from last season — after thrashing Bochum 5-0 sparked by Welsh international Mark Hughes.

After a goalless first half, Hughes, on loan for 500,000 marks (\$300,000) from Barcelo-

na, scored three times as Bayern suddenly found their form.

The Welshman collected the first in the 5th minute and scored again 11 minutes later, seconds after a goal from Norbert Eder. Hughes got the fourth for his temporary employers and Hans Dörfner wrapped up the scoring four minutes from time.

But Bayern still face a challenge for second place from Cologne, currently one point behind them in the league table.

The Rhinelanders appeared to be out of shape Tuesday when Hamburg SV beat them 3-0 in a game marked by sloppy play by Cologne.

They missed numerous chances to score and Hamburg's 21-year-old striker Harald Speerl, in his first division season, had two of the home team's goals. Bruno Labbadia scored the third seconds before the end.

## TENNIS

### Perez upsets McEnroe

**NEW YORK** (AP) — John McEnroe's comeback bid ran into another roadblock Tuesday when he was upset by Diego Perez of Uruguay in the opening round of the Tournament of Champions.

Perez, ranked 136th in the world, beat the fourth-seeded McEnroe 7-6 (7-2), 6-3, 6-3 at the West Side tennis club.

McEnroe played erratically in the first set, making 24 unforced errors, but settled down to win the second set and even the match.

But Perez broke McEnroe twice to take a 5-1 lead in the final set. McEnroe broke back in a lengthy seventh game and held serve to make it 5-3, but Perez then held his serve to close out the 2-hour, 36-minute match.

The loss was a major setback for McEnroe, who is trying to regain the No. 1 ranking he held from 1981-84.

The two-time TOC champion had looked sharp since returning from a seven-month layoff, winning last month's Japan Open and Exhibition Matches against Jimmy Connors and Stefan Edberg.

But his form was off against Perez, making 52 unforced errors and double-faulting five times.

Perez, 26, has won only one

tournament in his career. But he has beaten several top players, including Boris Becker, Yannick Noah and Andres Gomez.

Earlier in the day, qualifier Nicolás Pérez of Venezuela upset No. 12 Paul Annacone 7-5, 7-6 (8-6) and No. 9 Jay Berger beat fellow American Martin Davis 6-2, 6-3. No. 7 Aaron Krickstein beat Juan Aguilera of Spain 2-6, 6-1, 6-2 in a match that was halted by rain after two sets Monday.

Annacone took a 5-2 lead in the tiebreaker, but Pérez won the next four points to move ahead 6-5. After Annacone saved a match point, Pérez won the next two points to close out the match.

"I've never beaten a famous player in my life, so this is very important to me," said the 17-year-old, who was playing in his first Grand Prix event.

Although ranked only No. 323 in the world, Pérez said he was confident he could beat Annacone, best known for his upset win over McEnroe at the 1986 U.S. Open.

"I played very well through qualifying rounds," he said. "I was feeling very good physically and mentally."

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
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### ONE AT A TIME WILL DO

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

**NORTH**

♦ A 10 4  
♦ K 10  
♦ Q 10  
♦ A K Q 10 2

**WEST**

♦ K 8 5

♦ A 9 8 7 6 5

♦ J 6 5 4

♦ 7

The bidding:

West North East South

1 ♠ Dbl Pass 2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♦

Don't commit yourself to a line of play until it is absolutely necessary. Sometimes you can afford to take your tricks as they come and see what develops.

With just a single stopper in the enemy suit and a hand that he would set too strong for a one no trump overall, North elected to double first and then invite with two no trump. South felt that his six-card suit and singleton merited trying for the suit game.

West led a low club, and declarer was not sure he liked his contract or

how to proceed. He decided he would simply take what tricks he could and see what transpired. So he took three high clubs, discarding two spades from hand, cashed the ace of spades and ruffed a spade.

Since West was marked with most of the high cards, declarer continued with a low diamond. Rising with the ace would only have solved South's problems for him, so West played low and the queen won. Declarer used his entry to ruff another spade, and then he led a trump. West performed well the ace, and whatever he chose to do would help declarer.

Declarer had seven tricks in the hand, and West was caught in an end play. If he continued with the ace and another diamond, he would set up declarer's king and South would simply concede a trick to the queen of hearts and claim his ten tricks. But leading a black suit proved to be better. If West led a club, declarer would follow low from dummy, and East would be helpless. If he ruffed high, declarer would have three high trumps. If he did not ruff, declarer would ruff in hand, cross to the king of trumps and lead a club to score his last trump *en passant*. On a spade return, he could adopt this elegant line, or ruff with the king and make two more trump tricks in hand performance.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

STATEMENTS  
by Wilson McBeath

**ACROSS**

1. Blame
4. Delays
8. They portion
14. Liquor
18. Murray of Mens
19. Not right
21. Palm tree
22. Pulitzer author
23. Total
24. Jefferson's administration
27. Computer retrieval
29. Wyo. range
31. Dusty
33. Narrow tunnel
35. Make lace
36. Collection
38. Majestic
40. Estate
41. Cognac
42. Tahiti
43. Fibre
44. Box
45. Gondola
46. Another
- 47.

# Dukakis heads for nomination, race with Bush

**WASHINGTON (R)** — Michael Dukakis is rolling towards the Democratic presidential nomination and an election fight with Republican George Bush after he scored easy wins in the Ohio and Indiana primaries.

Dukakis beat lone Democratic rival Jesse Jackson in the two contests that mattered most, but the black leader blocked the Massachusetts governor from a clean sweep by winning the smaller primary in Washington D.C.

Dukakis won Ohio and Indiana by a better than two-to-one margin over Jackson, who easily swept the nation's capital, which has a 70 per cent black population.

With about two-thirds of Indiana's vote recorded, Dukakis led Jackson by 68 to 24 per cent. In



Michael Dukakis

Ohio, with about 70 per cent of the vote counted, Dukakis won 64 to 26 per cent. Jackson won Washington by 71 to 21 per cent.

Dukakis has won nine major races since he lost to Jackson in Michigan March 26, the first and only large industrial state won by the Baptist preacher.

Vice-President Bush, who clinched the Republican presidential nomination last week in the Pennsylvania primary, accused Dukakis of a doom and gloom campaign, during a speech celebrating his wins in Ohio, Indiana

# Kanak rebellion hits New Caledonia business

**NOUMEA, New Caledonia (R)** — Business was virtually at a standstill in New Caledonia Wednesday amid tension over a 13-day-old hostage drama and other separatist unrest.

"Small trading has stopped — it's a reflex of fear," said Raymond Bouvard, president of the territory's small business association.

"There are hardly any customers out on the street, in the stores, in the restaurants," he said.

Public attention was focused on events in a remote cave on an island off the north-east coast where about 11 Kanaks (Melanesians) were holding captive 23 French law officers. French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua ruled out negotiations with the kidnappers.

Many Kanaks, who make up 43 per cent of the territory's 145,000 population, say white settlers have driven them off the best land and deprived them of political rights.

Some settlers warned they would "fight fire with fire" if separatist unrest worsened.

A leading Kanak separatist called Wednesday for a dialogue between the two communities.

"All of us here must learn to live together. We must talk," Leopold Jorie die of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) told Reuters.

"If we've taken up our guns against the French troops, it's to earn the right to live, not end up in a cemetery," he said.

In Noumea, which could easily



Hooded Kanak militants armed with guns and axes man a barricade they erected near Canala in New Caledonia as part of their rebellion

be mistaken for a port in southern France because of its pastel-coloured houses and neat palm-fringed boulevards, riot police patrol in vans at night while bar owners advertising 24-hour business close before midnight.

"Everything has stopped," said Philippe Melician, co-owner of a local real estate firm.

He said residents were anxiously awaiting the results of the second round of French presidential elections May 8 to see

whether the next Paris government would help resolve growing unrest on the territory.

President Francois Mitterrand, standing against conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, favours independence in association with France for New Caledonia and has been criticised for his support of the Kanak cause.

The FLNKS has been pressing

Paris to appoint a mediator to start talks on independence.

Businessmen said they feared

## COLUMN

### Nun caught stealing panties pleads poverty

**SAO PAULO (R)** — A Brazilian nun was arrested in Sao Paulo after stealing two embroidered lace panties and some silverware she intended to send to her poor sister, police said Tuesday. Catharina Ribeiro dos Santos, 49, made a purchase for her Franciscan colleague at a local department store and paid. But she then slipped two pairs of panties, three forks and three knives into her shopping bag, police said. At the police station she confessed her crime but pleaded poverty. In tears, she told reporters she was "more humiliated than Christ on the cross."

### Two charged in lottery forgery

**HARRISBURG (AP)** — Authorities accused a computer operator from a company that helps run the state lottery with forging a winning \$15.2-million ticket and another man with trading it in for the jackpot. Mark S. Herbst, 33 of Harrisburg, was arraigned Tuesday, less than a week after he traded in the ticket for the first \$469,989 instalment of the prize from a super 7 drawing last July 15. He was jailed in lieu of \$50,000 bail. Jailed in lieu of bail Monday night was computer operator Henry Arthur Rich, also 33 of Harrisburg, who tried to flee, arresting officers said.

Rich is said to have used a computer at his firm, control data corp., to identify unclaimed jackpots and to print a copy of the unclaimed winning ticket, which he gave to Herbst. He contended Rich obtained information about the winning ticket from the lottery's main computer, which he had access to as a troubleshooter.

Herbst claimed he had used the ticket as a bookmark until he saw a newspaper story about the unclaimed prize. James Scroggins, the lottery's executive director, said doubts arose because the bogus ticket was printed on a blank from a Scranton lottery-ticket outlet, while a computer check showed the actual winner was sold in Bucks county.

The

good time for such conferences. The Philadelphia Inquirer said

Mrs. Reagan, after consulting an astrologer, insisted that the signing of the U.S.-Soviet treaty eliminating intermediate-range nuclear missiles be held at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 8.

"I don't know in any detailed sense" if that is true, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said. His regular news briefing Tuesday was dominated by questions on the first family and astrology.

shot in an assassination attempt in March, 1981.

The Los Angeles astrologer also implied she was a factor in the selection of George Bush for second place on the Reagan presidential ticket in 1980.

She said she chose Bush as the best man to be Reagan's vice president shortly before Reagan won the nomination that year.

Jillson, who writes a newspaper column on astrology, told Reuters that from studying the stars she could tell when would be a

## Scientists dismayed at Reagan astrology report

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Scientists expressed dismay at reports that some White House sources might have been based on astrology, with one saying, "that's not the type of guidance we need from the federal government."

Andrew Fraknoi, an astronomy professor at San Francisco State University and executive officer of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, said the claims of astrology have been subjected to dozens of scientific tests and have been found totally without foundation.

In one test, he said, two scientists examined more than 3,000

predictions by astrologers and found that they were correct less than 10 per cent of the time.

"If the predictions are wrong 90 per cent of the time, that's not the type of guidance we need from the federal government," Fraknoi said Tuesday in a telephone interview from his San Francisco office.

Meanwhile, an organisation of scientists called the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of the claims of the paranormal said in a statement:

"We are dismayed by reports that the White House has consulted astrologists. We are concerned by the apparent return to medieval superstition. Dozens of tests in recent years by scientists can find little, if any, evidence for astrological claims. Horoscopes have been shown under the most rigorous scientific analysis to fail completely in predicting future events."

The issue was raised by reports that former White House Chief of Staff Donald T. Regan wrote in an upcoming book that Nancy Reagan consulted astrologers to determine the timing of presidential speeches and announcements.

President Ronald Reagan said Tuesday that he has never based any policy or decision on astrological forecasts, but the White House acknowledged that Mrs. Reagan has consulted an astrologer to help schedule the president's activities.

Astrologer Joyce Jillson said Tuesday she was called to the White House after Reagan was

shot in an assassination attempt in March, 1981.

The Los Angeles astrologer also implied she was a factor in the selection of George Bush for second place on the Reagan presidential ticket in 1980.

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## Doctors separate Siamese twins at Soweto hospital

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)** — Doctors Wednesday performed follow-up surgery on one of the 17-month-old Siamese twins who were separated in a lengthy operation a day earlier, officials at Soweto's Baragwanath Hospital said.

Mpho and Mphonyana Mathibela, who had been joined at the head, were separated in a seven-and-a-half-hour operation Tuesday by a 40-person medical team at Baragwanath, the main hospital in the township outside Johannesburg.

Mphonyana, the smaller and weaker of the two, began bleeding from the incision in her head early Wednesday and required additional surgery, the hospital said. Following the operation, she was returned to the intensive care unit.

Both girls were in critical but stable condition, the hospital said without elaboration.

"I always knew they would be all right," said Sophie Mathibela, mother of the girls. "I feel so happy."

Doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital in the United States, who last year separated West German Siamese twins joined at the head, advised the Baragwanath doctors before the operation and called to offer congratulations following the surgery.

Meanwhile, honorary consuls of France and Panama escaped kidnap attempts Tuesday.

In Bern, the Swiss Foreign Ministry Wednesday confirmed the abduction of two Swiss and two West Germans. Foreign Ministry spokesman Michael Pache said security has been stepped up.

Pache declined to provide details, but he said the kidnappers have not made any demands. He identified the men as Richard Aufderhege, 47, general secretary of the Colombian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Bogota, and Wilfredo Lehner, 46, acting secretary of the humanitarian agency *Paz en la Tierra*.

Police said the five men were kidnapped by the National Liberation Army and the People's Liberation Army, which form part of the leftist national guerrilla coordinating organisation.

Callers identifying themselves as being members of another National Liberation Army cell telephoned Bogota radio stations, saying they were holding Jean Cristopher Rampal, a French embassy press official who disappeared last weekend.

A Tokyo newspaper, Yomiuri Shimbun, said that during the flight, the gauge that indicates how much fuel is feeding into the engines showed there was almost no fuel going into engines one and four and that the No. 3 engine was malfunctioning.

The plane, United Airlines Flight 97 from Los Angeles to Tokyo with 239 passengers and 19 crew members aboard, first lost the use of one engine at 11,888 metres over the Pacific Ocean about 75 minutes from the airport. A second engine failed about 30 minutes later.

Pilot Jack Harper radioed the control tower at 2:49 p.m. that he had shut down two of the four engines due to malfunctions and asked permission to land. A third engine failed shortly before landing. The plane touched down safely at the airport in Narita, 65 kilometres northeast of Tokyo.

One source said it is possible that a fuel line or filter could have kept the fuel from being shifted properly or the flight crew by mistake might have shifted too much into the fourth tank and not been able to shift it back in time.

The Boeing Jumbo jet has a variety of gauges to tell the flight crew how much fuel has been burned and how much is left. The flight engineer in the three-per-

The girls shared a major blood vessel in their heads, which doctors partially clamped in the earlier operations in hopes that lesser blood vessels would take over the functions of the shared vein.

Ms. Mathibela, an unmarried, 33-year-old domestic worker who earns about 120 rand (\$60) a month, gave birth to the twins Dec. 7, 1986.

She said that initially she refused to see the girls for three days.

"Once persuaded to see them, I immediately accepted and loved my little gifts from God," Ms. Mathibela said.

The girls had a combined weight of 15 kilograms before the operation. Mpho appears to be developing normally and recently began to speak, while Mphonyana is slightly smaller and does not appear to be as advanced, hospital officials said.

Mpho was asked to make a 10-rand (\$5) contribution to the costs of the operations, estimated at \$1.5 million rand (\$700,000). The costs are being covered by the hospital and the University of the Witwatersrand Medical School.

The Sowetan, a daily which covers the black township, has set up a trust fund for the twins that has raised 55,000 rand (\$26,000).

**Colombian guerrillas kidnap 5 foreigners**

**BOGOTA (AP)** — Leftist guerrillas claimed that they kidnapped five foreigners, including a French diplomat, two Swiss officials and two West German honorary consuls.

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## Tiny device could help heart patients survive

**HOUSTON (AP)** — A device about the size of a pencil eraser saved a heart transplant recipient's life and could help many of the 150,000 Americans who suffer heart attacks each year, surgeons at the Texas Heart Institute said Tuesday.

"I must say it's the most remarkable thing I've seen or experienced," said Dr. O.H. Frazier, director of the institute's cardiac cardiovascular surgical research laboratories. "A device this small to take over the function of the human heart is really incredible."

In its first human application, the temporary device — known as the number hemopump — was inserted into the heart of a 62-year-old Colorado man April 26.

The patient, whose name was not disclosed, underwent a heart transplant a month ago but was suffering from rejection and faced certain death, Frazier said.

"He's in the game," Frazier said. "He was out of the game Monday a week ago, totally out; and the only reason he's in it is because of the device. I say that with absolute certainty."

The pump, smaller than a pen-

ny and cylindrical like a pencil, is inserted through the femoral artery in the leg and is passed with a tube until it gets to the left ventricle, the heart's main pumping chamber. The tube stays in and is hooked to the outside power source.

There, spinning at 25,000 revolutions per minute, it can provide 100 per cent of the blood flow to the body and enable the heart muscle to rest and heal.

"The main thing is all other devices require the chest to be open and major surgery," Frazier said. "This is placed in a simple incision."

Unlike an intra-aortic balloon pump now used to treat heart patients, the hemopump does not require a beating heart to function effectively, doctors said.

The device has been in testing for two years and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is allowing testing at Texas Heart Institute for four patients. A second patient given the pump last week died, although Frazier said that patient suffered from complications not related to the pump.

**PEKING (R)** — A Peking man who went to get cash from his bank account was told he would have to wait until others made a deposit because the bank was out of money. The Economic Daily Wednesday printed a letter from the angry customer describing his long wait at the bank. He said another customer who needed money to pay for one of his family to go to hospital also had to go without cash.